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The President and the Chief of Naval Operations have been messaging to all dependents to whom have been evacuated from U. S. Naval Base, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The President's message, which has been relayed by radio to the four ships carrying the dependents, and the Chief of Naval Personnel for relay to those already arrived and settled, reads:

"To you who have had to leave your homes at Guantanamo I send my deep regret. I know well the cost which separation, for times if you did, leaves behind your husbands, absent your children -- and you who have been civilian employees are left behind from your job, as well as your home. It is my most fervent hope that circumstances will permit your return. I send my warmest greetings, a little money to help you, and assure you leave behind." Signed John F. Kennedy."

The President's message was also disseminated to the Little Creek, Virginia, Amphibious Base, and the Jacksonville, Florida, Naval Air Station for relay to the dependents evacuated.

The Chief of Naval Operations sent the following message:

"The calm and serene manner in which you have accepted the threat of possible personal danger while living at Guantanamo has been viewed with admiration and respect. Now our judgment dictates that you should leave the scene of an interesting if sad, in your own safety. I am sure you will accept this action with the same fine spirit that has been exhibited throughout your stay at Guantanamo. Rest assured that we will do all possible to provide for your welfare in the days ahead. GEORGE ANDERSON."

Rear Admiral Edward J. O'Donnell, Commander of the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base, sent the following message to Admiral Anderson:

"I was able to read your kind and warm message over ship's loud-speakers to our people embarked in the DIXIEYARD BAY and HAWAII. Was not quite agile enough to make the DESSCO correctly. The whole evacuation went very well and amply bore out the kind things you said in your message. Rear Admiral O'Donnell."

END